

ANPSA Correa Study Group

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Correa pulchella "Dots Dream"

Newsletter No 57 April 2018

LEADERS' COMMENTS

Hello Everyone,
After a long, hot dry summer, finally the rain arrived with wind and hail for good measure. Within a day the cooling system was turned off, to be replaced with a much appreciated heating system. At long last the hoses and watering cans were set aside and we could all relax. What had happened over the past 12 months gave rise to quite a deal of reflection.

I have just wandered about the garden with note book in hand, noting briefly what has happened correa wise. About 350 extra new plants across the board had been added over the year after the losses had been accounted for, including approximately 70 new correas over the last 6 months. Now that the casualties had been removed and mainly replaced, the general impressions are quite positive. We aim to retain our existing correa collection by growing at least 2 of each variation, so any new variations introduced will also have at least 2 specimens each as well; to only have 1 specimen is for our purposes really just a waste of time. New variations introduced over the past 6 months include; reflexas from Port Lincoln, Montrose, Little Desert, Ararat, Robe, Gormondale and Traralgon South. Also included were *Glabra* Flinders Is, *Decumbens* Mini, *Backhousiana* var. *orbicularis* and *Pulchella* Crinkle Leaf. Space now being in such critical short supply, new variations of correas and any other plants, will be reserved for very special plants indeed. In our conditions we find correas to be quite hardy and adaptable. Interestingly, this experience has not been shared by all correa growers, some of whom have experienced disappointing losses over the past summer. We can feel for them.

Over the summer, we removed the cuttings from the bottom heat facility in the hot house, and transferred them to a protected position in a shade house. The small pots of cuttings were not covered and were hose watered 2 or 3 times daily. This method worked very well over the period of excessive heat. The outcome was that all our current planting needs have been covered, plus there is an excess that we may be Santa with, and distribute them to a range of enthusiasts and friends. My podiatrist even scored a correa at a cut and polish session that I had with him. Our belief is that we spread the correa image as far and as widely as possible.

The autumn –winter correa flower show has commenced, but has a long way yet to go. *Reflexa* Red Empress has been in full flower for quite some time, a real show stopper. *Pulchella* Dots Dream is another of our favourites. *Reflexa* Running Creek also deserves to rate a special mention. We have a happy specimen that for the first years grew happily in full shade. With the departure of a nearby tree, the plant was then in full sun, but it did not turn a leaf, rather it kept on growing as if nothing had changed. This plant is most notable for its large, pale, drooping foliage, quite an eye catcher.

We both enjoy the company of our correa community. If anyone sees fit to drop in we would be delighted - there could even be a spare correa plant to mark the occasion.

Dot and Bob

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Correa news from Bairnsdale

Well, the year 2017 was the coldest for many years according to the older Locals but the Correas handled that well at my place. The plants in my garden loved the spring and grew well especially Fat Fred which has tripled in size now over 1 metre high and about 800mm wide. The hybrids of Peter Olerenshaw, Catie Bec, Coastal pink and Candy Pink are a mass of flowers now, having been hand watered each day during the summer heat. Jezabel has done well too after a poor start. *Correa alba* var *pannosa* is very hardy and has grown well, also nearly in full flower. People love this variety when they see it. I have extended my collection of Correas to include Angel Tears, *decumbens*, *bauerlenii*, *genoensis*, Lemon Twist, Pink Panther, Lime Splice, Painted Lipsticks (Redex?) and others I can't find names for yet.

Pruning after flowering or about spring makes the plants not only bushy but creates new growth and flowers. No fertiliser has been applied for 12 months and I plan to apply some straight after flowering. (Native plant Osmocote).

I was fortunate to get possibly the last Correa book (second hand) and it is a wealth of information. One small problem, some Correas have more than one name which is somewhat confusing. How we can solve it is the challenge.

Brian Jack



Correa - "Jezabel"

2018 Correa Crawl Cancelled

There were high hopes to arrange a Correa Crawl in the Portland area for the long weekend in June.

Unfortunately we have not been able to arrange this so we have cancelled our plans.

We will now aim for the next Correa Crawl to be in June 2019.

If you have any great ideas as to where we can visit please let us know.

Two Uncommon Correas from South Australia

For some years, we have grown two quite different Correas, neither very exciting for their flowers, but valuable garden additions in other ways. We live at Bullengarook in Central Victoria at 500 metres altitude, with an average rainfall of around 700mm.

Correa eburnea is an endangered species from the Fleurieu Peninsula. Our plant is 1.5 metre or more high and 3-4 metres wide, although Maria Hitchcock suggests that it can grow to 4 metres high. It is growing in a dry sunny part of the garden and receives no supplementary watering. The foliage is dense, making it a useful weed smotherer. The flowers are green and largely hidden within a pair of bracts. Being endangered, it would be useful if it were grown more widely.

Correa calycina var halmaturorum has the typical green flowers of *C. calycina*, but has very attractive foliage. It is worth growing just for its foliage. Our plant is 1.5 metres or so high, with a similar width. It has to cope with competition for moisture from trees, and does not receive supplementary watering. I would rate this Kangaroo Island Correa highly in regard to foliage which makes it a useful addition to any garden. If it responded to pruning, it would make a very good hedge plant.

David Pye



Correa calycina var halmaturorum



Correa eburnea



Correa eburnea—whole plant

Correas Growing at Elliminyt (Colac) Victoria

We have had no rain since last November so everything is so dry here and yesterday we had a welcome twelve millimetres of rain which was very welcome but we need much more rain soon.

I have lost a number of plants due to the dry weather including some correas.

I am leaving the ones that look nearly dead in case they recover after substantial rain.

In spite of what I have said above the following correas are flowering at this moment:-

backhouseana, backouseana x alba, calycina, calycina x glabra, "Dancing Lipsticks", decumbens, decumbens x calycina, decumbens x reflexa -Redex, glabra (red flower), glabra var turnbullii, glabra var turnbullii "Barossa Gold", lawrenciana x bauerlenii "Marianne", lawrenciana (Otways form), lawrenciana var rosea, reflexa var speciosa Point Hicks Beauty.

Brendon Stahl



Barossa Gold

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Mandy Thomson of Edithvale in Victoria

Jim McKay of Engadine in New South Wales

Sincere apologies for those in the past we have failed to welcome.

Individual memberships are 63

Correa reflexa* var *nummulariifolia

Correa growers need to be aware that the plant being sold as *C. reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* is wrongly named. This Victorian plant with round leaves and pale green bells should be labelled *C. reflexa* var *reflexa*. The true *C. reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* only grows in the Flinders Island group and is not yet in cultivation. It is quite different to the one being sold under that name, having dark green crinkly leaves and a mid green flower which is more like a *C. glabra* flower in appearance.

Maria Hitchcock



Correa reflexa var *reflexa* Granny's Grave Track



Correa reflexa var *reflexa* Granny's Grave Track



Correa reflexa var *nummulariifolia* Flinders Is



Vale, Corinne Hampel

It is with sadness that we have learnt the passing of Corinne Hampel. For those of us who went on the Correa Crawl in June 2017 you will remember visiting her nursery and buying some lovely plants. Corinne's health deteriorated rapidly in the latter part of 2017 and she passed away peacefully on the 21st of January 2018.

from Mike Beamish Boolarra, Victoria

An update on my *Correa* propagation outcomes

1. I have just set some cuttings from what I believe is *Correa backhouseana* var. *orbicularis*, in the hope that I can re-establish this plant in my garden. My original plant died a few years back and is suspected to be the seed parent of *Correa* 'Boolarra Bitzer' that I wrote about in the last newsletter. The cuttings came from a cutting grown plant, from my original plant, that is surviving quite happily in my Mother's garden in Morwell.
2. Over the summer break, I collected more cuttings from the green-flowered, large hairy-leaved form of *Correa reflexa* that grows along the Wellington, Macalister and Barkley Rivers north of Licola. These appear to have struck nicely, but the two cutting grown plants from last year that I planted in the garden in early spring didn't survive to see the New Year. Again, the cutting from the same batch that is in my Mother's garden is growing well.
3. The cuttings obtained from the Correa Crawl last June, 2 pieces of *Correa glabra* var. *turnbullii*, 4 of 5 pieces of a red-flowered *C. lawrenceana*, presumably var. *rosea* and 2 of 3 pieces of an unlabelled *Correa* with large round, smooth leaves, have all struck and have been potted up pending planting out if/when we get an autumn break.
4. Cuttings collected from East Gippsland just after the Correa Crawl and treated exactly the same way, have virtually all failed. All 8 of the *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa* cuttings from Yeerung Gorge and Cape Conran refused to strike and only 1 of 6 of the *C. reflexa* var. *reflexa* from Nowa Nowa did the right thing by me. Go figure!

Otherwise, the *Correas* that are still alive in my garden are just struggling along, waiting for some decent rain. In 2017, we managed 839mm, a little bit down on our 25 year average of 925mm. January 2018 dropped 60mm on us, with two good solid rain events during the month, but since then we've had no significant or effective rainfall. The 15mm of February occurred over 13 separate days, so had no noticeable effect on soil or plants. The *C. reflexa* (Wilson's Prom) and *C. glabra* (Coliban River) are maintaining their nice rounded shapes, about 0.5m tall and broad, the *Correa* 'Candy Pink' is a little leggy about the same height, but the *C. pulchella* and the *C. reflexa* var. *nummularifolia* are both very sparse and don't seem likely to improve. The *pulchellas* just don't like our soils and climate and I should probably leave them in pots and look after them a bit better if I want some decent performance. The latter is in pretty heavy shade with competition from an Omeo Gum, but *C* 'Boolarra Bitzer' is nearby and is as robust and healthy as you'd like. My latest attempt at keeping *Correa* 'Wynn's Wonder' alive seems to have failed, the last of the variegated leaves has just gone brown, can't imagine it will re-shoot.



Correa glabra in Little Desert

The Correa Summer.

We generally have a policy of planting throughout the summer. The new plantings are mulched and watered as required. The theory is that it is preferable to plant out, accepting a few losses as part of the equation, with the belief that the successful plants get away to a very good start, far preferable to having the plants left in the pots to become potbound. We propagate most of our own new plants, making sure that we have spares before the new plants face the hard outside world. This approach has served us well over the years, but this season we have struck a few hurdles.

New plantings continued into the New Year, with a lot of hibernias, epacris and correas being planted. Initially the new correa plants went well, but soon we began to lose a lot of the hibernias, plus a number of epacris. A little later we began to lose a number of new correas, plus some more established correa plants, so we suspended further new plantings at that point.

This past summer and early autumn has been a testing one, with virtually no rain in February and well into March; that, coupled with hot windy conditions certainly applied a lot of pressure on a range of plants. Over that period, the major daily chore has been to water, water and water, which helped to stem the rate of losses. In the meantime we have continued to propagate additional correas to cover potential losses. We now have considerably more correa plants coming on than there will be spaces to accommodate them, so when we do finally resume planting, the biggest problem will be making choices as to what finds a home here and those that do not.

Last year we were fortunate to have some lovely new correa variations come our way for the garden. Some striking forms from near Ararat, the Grampians and the Little Desert areas will make it into our garden. Also most interesting is a very long flowered Correa reflexa from near Gormandale.

Some little happenings here stand out as being interesting to me. During mid March, a strong wind tore through, wiping out a wattle at the back fence. As luck would have it, no other plant nearby was damaged, but we now have space to plant two Correa lawrencianas in that area, just ideal behind our two little orange trees. What hurt more was that the same wind ripped a favourite young Correa pulchella Blondie from the ground. Again, as luck would have it, we have a couple of tubestock replacements coming on, so not all was lost, but I do miss that little plant.

Of interest also was a new planting of about 20 correas along the eastern side of a long garden area. All plants received the same care and attention, yet 4 of them have died while the balance has done from well to very well. Two of those plants were growing quite strongly, yet died, yet a number of smaller plants have done well. Why is that so?

The garden in general is now maturing and evolving. In that process, some correa plants are being submerged, while some correas are submerging other smaller plants. In some situations, judicious pruning would be a solution, but not always. Here we must look at the overall situations and make choices accordingly. Having a good supply of replacement plants is certainly a blessing as we wend our way through this testing process.

Lastly, I must comment on the bird life here. Over the past months we have noted a most pleasing increase in the small bird life flitting about and feeding. The correas of course are not the attraction for them at this stage of the year, but I am confident that a few months down the track that indeed the correas will be a great asset in the bird attracting qualities of this garden.

Bob O'Neill.



Correa from near Ararat

